



Buzzwords ...

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Tauranga, NZ
Permit 486

Return address:
Box 4048
Wellington

ISSN 0114 -0795

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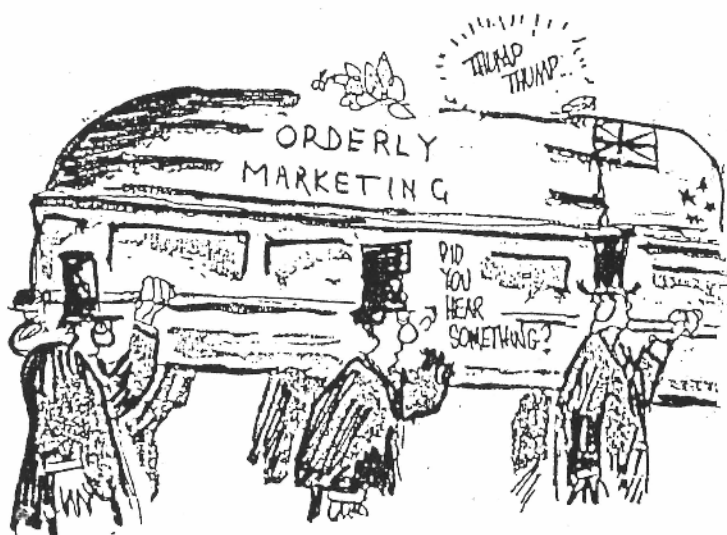
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..... the newsletter for National Beekeepers' Association members

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1990 CONFERENCE IN RAROTONGA

Those who attended the 1989 NBA conference in Dunedin will recall the debate which took place over the issue of whether or not the next conference should be held in Rarotonga, at the invitation of the beekeepers there. One remit passed recommended a survey of beekeepers to measure the interest, while a second requested a postponement of the proposal.

In September last year, the Waikato branch proposed to executive that the branch find out the level of support among beekeepers, and that if it was satisfactory we should convene the 1990 conference in Rarotonga from 9-12 July. Executive consented to this proposal, provided that there was a satisfactory response from beekeepers and no increase in usual costs to the NBA.

Survey forms were sent to all registered beekeepers with six or more hives, along with others such as life members and honorary members of the NBA. Commitment to travel to Rarotonga was registered by payment of a deposit of \$100 per person, and a minimum of 130 registrations was required for acceptance of the proposal.

By 30 January over 200 people had paid a deposit to go to Rarotonga, and after being reasonably satisfied that a fair representation of members would be attending the executive has consented to convene the 1990 annual conference there. The venue is to be the Edgewater Resort, and the Waikato branch has presented a week-long travel, accommodation and conference package at a very reasonable cost.

Waikato branch, as conference organisers, has indicated that further places are available for others who wish to take

advantage of the package provided. Initial enquiries should be made to Russell Berry, phone (073) 461-111. For travel details contact Glen Beattie of Thomas Cook in New Plymouth at (067) 75-459.

In making this decision, executive has considered carefully the arguments put forward both against and in favour of Rarotonga as a location for our annual conference. Concern has been expressed at possible restrictions on attendance by choice of an overseas venue, and we have sought assurances that provision for travel and accommodation will be made for all members who wish to attend. Cost to the association for executive to attend is to be held at an average of the past two years, and branch delegates will probably receive a set travel subsidy, such as \$100 each.

The opportunity exists for a different and interesting conference this year, and executive would like to recommend that as many members as possible attend. All the normal procedures for remits and voting through branches under the rules of the association will of course be observed. However, with an earlier date for conference, some pre-conference branch meetings will also need to be held earlier than usual. Further information will be provided to branch secretaries later in the year.

*Allen McCaw
for NBA Executive*

NEW RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETS

A first meeting of the newly-formed Apicultural Research Advisory Committee (ARAC) of the NBA was held in Wellington on Tuesday 30 January. This committee has been formed with the aim of promoting beekeeping research, co-ordinating existing and future apicultural research, and providing advice to the NBA executive when it considers applications for research funding.

Members of the committee come from both within and beyond the industry, one of the objectives being to obtain a wide spread of expertise which can be related to apiculture and the beekeeping industry.

The initial committee members are Dr Mark Goodwin of MAF Ruakura (chairman), Dr Stephen Ogden of MAF Invermay, Dr Alison Mercer of Otago University, Ted Roberts (MAF Apicultural Adviser), Nick Wallingford of the NBA executive (secretary), and Allen McCaw of the NBA executive.

During this first meeting, the committee established a number of initial goals to work towards, which were as follows:

- Goal A** Ensure availability of adequate advice on research to NBA executive.
- Goal B** Ensure availability of adequate advice for research workers.
- Goal C** Promote apicultural research.
- Goal D** Improve communication between researchers.
- Goal E** Increase funding for apicultural research.

Several objectives for immediate action were also outlined, including compiling a register of current research projects related to beekeeping, advertising possible research projects to the various research institutions and to beekeepers themselves, and determining what further possibilities of research funding are available other than present industry sources.

Establishment of ARAC to work towards improving the beekeeping industry's research capacity and involvement should help provide for future recognition of the important role of beekeeping in the agricultural scene. Part of the brief of the committee is to lobby government and related industries for this recognition, and to raise the profile of beekeeping research amongst the decision-makers.

You will hear more as the work of the committee proceeds, and we trust all beekeepers will support our efforts in this important area of the association's work.

Apicultural Research and Advisory Committee

NEW MOVE FOR BEEKEEPING

The NBA has taken a new step forward with the appointment of an executive officer.

This step was approved unanimously at the 1989 industry conference, and will lead to the NBA being a much more effective organization in today's environment.

A 12-month contract has been established, effective from 1 January 1990, at a cost to the association of \$15 000. This period will allow the idea to be assessed before any permanent position is established. The contract has been awarded to Ted Roberts of Palmerston North.

The job includes preparing background material for executive, assessing the current changes to legislation, and work in PR and liaison as directed by the executive.

Your exec believes that this step is positive and forward-looking, and long overdue to help the NBA be effective and address issues that are currently overlooked.

NBA executive

NEW LAW AFFECTS YOU

All law relating to the environment is now being revised, under Resource Management Law Reform (RMLR). You have until later this month to make submissions to the select committee considering the bill.

Your interests as a citizen are being affected, but your livelihood as a beekeeper is also influenced by the laws under review.

For example, the review covers laws to do with forest conservation (Water and Soil Conservation Act, Town and Country Planning Act, Mining Act) and pesticide use (the Pesticides, Animal Remedies and Toxic Substances Boards will all be replaced by the Hazards Control Commission).

If you want to make comments at this last stage of the review of our resource laws, here's what to do:

1. Contact your nearest Government Bookshop for a copy of the Resource Management Bill (\$15) or ask at your public library.
2. Make comments directly about the provisions of the Resource Management Bill itself - now is not the time for general statements.
3. Make 20 copies of your submissions. Send them to:

The Committee Secretary
Select Committee on the Resource Management Bill
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

4. The closing date for submissions is Friday 23 February 1990. Sending them early is recommended.
5. When you send in your written submissions, include a covering letter to the committee secretary stating whether you want to appear before the committee. The committee will decide whether it wants to hear to submission. The select committee will begin hearing submissions in the week beginning 19 February. It will travel to hear submissions, holding hearings in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington, and possibly some other centres.



WASPS

Wasps are worst in the wild. Some of the toughest wasp areas (for humans) are wild areas under the control of the Department of Conservation. Now DoC's brought in the Waspbusters.

Popular visitor areas in Nelson/Marlborough, the West Coast and Canterbury are being targeted. Heavily-used tracks and huts will be hit by the Waspbusters, who will put up insect-only bait stations stashed with 1080 and hydromethylon.

In other areas DoC will be using the usual method of putting fuel or insecticide directly into nests.

Further info from Sara Kooy, DoC, Box 10-420, Wellington or phone (04) 710 726.

Adapted from Eco newsletter

HONEY CROP PROSPECTS

Information supplied to *Buzzwords* so far:

Northland: manuka poor, clover excellent, bush looks good.
Bay of Plenty: tawari was good (not brilliant). Clover and thistle around Rotorua and Taupo flowering well, but needing hot weather.

Hawkes Bay: good, but patchy.

Manawatu, Wanganui, Taranaki: about 2 tonne average.

Canterbury: patchy

North Otago: good.

South Otago and Southland: very poor.

We need more crop and market information for the next issue. Please fax items to *Buzzwords*.

HONEY - A REMEDY REDISCOVERED

Honey's use as a medicine is becoming more widely known, even in the scientific community. The title of this item is taken from an article published recently in the prestigious journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

In New Zealand Waikato University is continuing its valuable research on honey's antibacterial properties, and have just had an article published in the scientific periodical *Journal of Apicultural Research*. Several students are working with Dr Peter Molan and they need your help.

Please send samples of pure floral source honeys to the university team. Details of collection and despatch methods were in the last two issues of *Buzzwords*.

BEEKEEPER AUDIT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

The Kiwifruit Pollination Association in the Bay of Plenty has put in place an extensive beekeeper management audit system, with subsequent beehive standards and quality verification checks in the orchard. The scheme is based on the international audit system now used in kiwifruit packhouses.

KPA president Bruce Stanley of Whakatane says the membership of 60 beekeepers each act as independent businesses offering quality-controlled beehives to orchards, essentially in the Katikati to Opotiki region.

Members of the association are bound by clearly stated minimum standards for their beehive supply to orchards for pollination.

In the past the association has employed independent assessors to carry out spot checks to verify standards of beehives when they were placed in the orchards, to ensure quality and standards were adhered to.

This previous system was credible in that each year at disputes committee meetings, with orchardists in attendance, several members have been questioned about their beehive standards.

Over the years, one member has resigned due to his inability to conform, another has had his membership status dropped back to candidate (apprentice) status, and several other members over the years have had to be cautioned for minor matters and were monitored the following year.

Mr Stanley said the beehive monitoring and standards checking system did not give the association a high profile, so that comprehensive beehive management audit and standards checking system was set up.

To ensure the monitoring system would be seen as being independent of the association, a contract for the work had been entered into with MAF who would control the work, assess the results and report back to the association.

As a further significant expression of credibility, association members had also given blanket agreement to any orchardist-initiated hive audit by MAF.

It would be at the orchardist's cost with reasonable prior notice given the beekeeper and a copy of the resultant report given to the beekeeper.

Bruce Stanley said the association did not recommend prices to its members but it knew that average professional commercial operations had about \$70 (pre GST) costs before their personal labour and income requirements. This reflected prices averaging \$85 to \$95 (pre GST) made by its members.

Honey bee pollination had absolutely nothing to do with a cost-saving deal on cheaper beehives. Still of concern to the association were the fly-by-night, get-broke-quick beekeepers.

Adapted from the BOP Times



QUARANTINE STAFF BUSY

Auckland airport is a busy spot! Last year MAF quarantine staff processed over 1.3 million passengers. More than 400 agricultural interceptions and seizures of quarantine importance made each day, a good proportion of these being undeclared finds. This volume is expected to increase with four airlines making their maiden flights to Auckland this summer.

And on the same subject, Japanese cars keep rolling in. It would appear from the never-ending loads of second-hand Japanese cars, vans and trucks, that buyers can make cash offers for vehicles anywhere in Japan - maybe even at traffic lights! MAF staff have found rubbish trucks complete with rubbish -presumably purchased on the way to the tip. Now they've had a meat truck complete with blood and animal fat. Presumably this was bought during smoko between deliveries.

BEEES TO THE USA

Getting permission for New Zealand honey bees to be shipped to the USA has been about as difficult as getting landing rights for a Soviet bomber!

But it seems as if the final step is getting nearer. MAF and MERT (the Ministry of External Relations and Trade) are continuing to renegotiate with the US authorities.

The latest is that our case has been with the USDA's Office of General Counsel (OGC) since early November. It is a "priority" case, but in case that's not fast enough Phil Lima of the USDA is trying to speed things up for us.

If the OGC have no problems, the proposal will go to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for their clearance (a 10 day process), then back to APHIS (a part of the USDA) for publication in the federal register. Confused? Let's hope the US aren't! This publication process normally requires a 30-day period for public comment, but we're trying to have that halved because the shipping season is getting close.

For further news, as they say, watch this space.

MAF apiculture unit

BRANCH NEWS

Nelson and Marlborough are repeating their very successful Lake Rotoiti weekend; a time for beekeepers, families and friends to enjoy a mix of fun and learning. It's being held on 16-18 February - details are available from Michael Wright on (0524 77) 708.

Marlborough branch is having a tour of honey houses on Saturday 3 March. Meet at James and Sue Jenkins' place, 631 Old Renwick Road, at 9 am. Their AGM (it's that time of year again) is on Wednesday 28 March at 7.30 pm, at the Balling Centre in Budge Street.

Waikato branch's field day will be on 3 March this year. Details from Tony Lorimer.

BUZZWORDS IS ...

Published by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, PO Box 4048, Wellington.

Production by Andrew Matheson (MAF, Tauranga) and Nick Wallingford.

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